

Message Text

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10

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGR-05 IO-10 SCCT-01

SAM-01 /100 W

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R 171900Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8620

INFO AMEMBASJY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 2851

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

SAN JOSE FOR USDEL SAN JOSE CONFERENCE AND EMBASSY

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT ES PGOV

SUBJ: PRESIDENT MOLINA EXPRESSES HIS VIEWS ON SALVDORAN DOMESTIC
SITUATION (PART 1 OF 3)

1. SUMMARY - PRESIDENT MOLINA INVITED THE AMBASSADOR TO A MEETING
ON JULY 15. IN WHAT WAS ESSENTIALLY A ONE HOUR MONOLOGUE, HE
PRESENTED AN OVERVIEW OF HIS REGIME'S FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC POLICIES
AND PLANS. THIS MESSAGE DEALS WITH THE PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS ON
INTERNAL AFFAIRS. MOLINA REAFFIRMED HIS STRONG COMMITMENT OT THE
RECENTLY PASSED AGRARIAN TRANSFORMATION LAW AND SOLICITED USG
SUPPORT IN ITS IMPLEMENTATION. HE PRESENTED HIS VIEWS ON THE
THREAT IN CENTRAL AMERICA FROM EXTREMISTS AT BOTH ENDS OF THE
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POLITICAL SPECTRUM. HE REITERATED HIS APPRECIATION FOR PAST USG

ASSISTANCE VIS A VIS THE PROBLEM WITH HONDURAS AND HIS HOPE THAT THE GOES-USG RELATIONSHIP WILL REMAIN OPEN AND FRANK. END SUMMARY

2. PRESIDENT MOLINA INVITED THE AMBASSADOR, DCM AND DATT TO THE CASA PRESIDENCIAL FOR A ONE HOUR EXCHANGE ON VIEWS ON JULY 15. THE PRESIDENT HAD MINDEF ROMERO AND THE SUBSECRETARY OF DEFENSE WITH HIM. REFERRING TO HIS PREVIOUS PROMISE TO THE AMBASSADOR TO GET TOGETHER TO REVIEW MUTUAL POLICIES AND PROBLEMS, THE PRESIDENT, SPENT THE BEST PART OF THE SESSION IN A MONOLOGUE SKETCH OF MANY SIGNIFICANT ASPECTS OF THE GOEECJ DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THIS MESSAGE DESCRIBES HIS ANALYSIS OF SALVADORAN DOMESTIC ISSUES. SEPTELS WILL CHARACTERIZE HIS VIES ON (1) INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS; AND (2) THE STATUS OF GOES-GOH RELATIONS. THE FOLLOWING HIGHLIGHTS THE PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS:

3. ISTA - THE PRESIDENT BEGAN WITH AN EXPANATION OF THE RECENTLY PROMULGATED LAW CREATING THE SALVADORAN INSTITUTE OF AGRARIAN TRANSFORMATION (ISTA) (A-92). HE SAID HE WISHED TO EMPHASIZE THAT THIS LEGISLATION WAS NEITHER HASTILY NOR THOUGHTLESSLY CONT-RIVED. HE CHARACTERIZED THE FINAL DOCUMENT AS THE RESULT OF ABOUT TEN REDRAFTS. THE PRESIDENT THEN DESCRIBED WHAT PROBLEMS HIS REGIME NTW FACES IN TRYING TO IMPLEMENT THE LAW. HE SAID HE FULLY UNDERSTANDS THAT THOSE ELEMENTS WHICH DOMINATE THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR, GENERALLY IDENTICAL WITH THOSE DOMICBTING THE BANKING, COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND TRANSPORTATION SECTORS, FEAR THE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF ISTA AND THUS OPPOSED ITS PASSAGE. HE SAID HE WAS NOT SURE BEFORE WHETHER OR NOT THESE ELEMENTS ALSO DOMINATED THE MEDIA. FROM THE PRESS REACTION AND EDITORIAL COMMENT TO ISTA, THE PRESIDENT SAID, HE HAS CONFIRMED THAT THE MEDIA IS IN FACT SO DOMINATED. THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT PANIC NOR BACK DOWN IN THE FACE OF THE CRPQICISM. INSTEAD THE PRESIDENT WENT ON TV ON JUNE 25 (A-92) TO REAFFIRM THE REGIME'S DETER-MINATION TO PROCEED. HE THOUGHT THAT THE YOUNGER GENERATION OF OLIGARCHS ARE MUCH MORE SOCIALLY CONSCIOUS AND ENLIGHTENED THAN THEIR REACTIONARY PARENTS. HE NAMED FON MIN BORGONOVO AND BUSINESSMAN ROBERTO MATHIES AS OUTSTANDING EXAMPLES OF THE PROGRESSIC LY-MINED YOUNGER GENERATION. THE PRESIDENT SAID THE ISTA LAW IS NEITHER "HARD" NOR "EXTREME" AND ITS FOCUS IS ON THE INDIVIDUAL WHOSE CONDCTIONS IT SEEKS TO IMPROVE, RATHER THAN ON THE LAND PER SE. HE STRESSED THAT THE REGIME MUST

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ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING QUICKLY. MOLINA AGREED WITH THE AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT THAT THE MANNER IN WHICH THE LAW IS IMPLEMENTED, AS WELL AS THE SPEED WITH WHICH THIS IS DONE, IS VERY IMPORTANT. THE PRESIDENT THEN SOLICITED THE EMBASSY'S SUPPORT FOR ISTA. THE AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT AID IS STUDYING A PILOT PROJECT PROPOSAL AT THE PRESENT TIME AND WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO COOPERATE.

4. TERRORISM - PRESIDENT MOLINA SAID THAT HE HAS COMPARED

NOTES WITH HIS GUATEMALAN AND HONDURAN COUNTERPARTS, AND THEY BELIEVE THAT ALL THREE COUNTRIES (AND OTHERS) FACE THREATS FROM EXTREMISTS ON BOTH RIGHT AND LEFT ENDS OF THE POLITICAL SPECTUM. THE HARD-LINERS ON THE RIGHT ACCUSE THEIR GOVERNMENTS OF "SELLING OUT" TO THE LEFTISTS AND TURNING THE COUNTRY TOWARD SOCIALISM. ON THE LEFT, HE SAID, THEY ACCUSE THE GOVERNMENT OF ADMINISTERING PALLIATIVES TO A DYING PATIENT, WHILE THE EXTREMISTS ARE RECEIVING FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM EXTERNAL SOURCES TO SUBVERT THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS. HE CITED THE SALVADORAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PDC) AS AN EXAMPLE, AS WELL AS THE PCS, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS BITTERLY OPPOSED TO HIS REGIME. ROMERO REEMPHASIZED THE THREAT FROM A COMMUNIST PLOT IN CA AND CLAIMED HE HAS "DOCUMENTARY PROOF" OF ITS EXISTENCE. THE PRESIDENT SAID HIS GUATEMALA AND HONDURAN COLLEAGUES ARE IN ESSENTIAL AGREEMENT WITH THIS ANALYSIS.

5. GOES-USG RELATIONSHIP - MOLINA AGAIN EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE FACILITATOR ROLE THE USG HAS PERFORMED IN THE GOES-GOH NEGOTIATIONS. HE REPEATED HIS DESIRE THAT THE USG HELP IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HIS AGRARIAN TRANSFORMATION PROGRAM. HE ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE PRIVATE CLAIMS OF SOME CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC LEADERS THAT THEY ENJOY US EMBASSY PARTIALITY. THE DCM TOOK THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN THE POLITICAL, NON-PARTISAN NATURE OF THE EMBASSY'S ROLE, AND TO ASSURE THE PRESIDENT OF OUR STRICT ADHERENCE TO THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-INTERVENTION IN INTERNAL SALVADORAN AFFAIRS. MOLINA SAID HE UNDERSTOOD OUR POSITION.

6. THE CONVERSATION ENDED WITH THE MINDEF SAYING THAT ANYTIME THE EMBASSY WANTED TO KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT GOES POLICIES OR ACTIVITIES IT HAD ONLY TO ASK THE TOP GOES OFFICIALS TO GET THE CORRECT INFORMATION.
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